



DATE

Director Michael Cohen  
California State Department of Finance  
State Capitol Room 1145  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: Equitable Funding for County Child Support Departments**

Dear Director Cohen:

We, the undersigned County Supervisors, County Executives, and Directors of Child Support departments representing the Counties of Fresno, Glenn, Kern, Kings, Los Angeles, Madera, Merced, Riverside, Sacramento, San Bernardino, San Joaquin, Stanislaus and Tehama, respectfully request that as your Department begins working with the Legislature on the 2018-2019 State Budget, that the State provide an increase to the State Department of Child Support in order to then increase funding to our County Departments, which have historically received under parity funding allocations when compared to our peer counties. We are requesting an increase of \$126 million (\$42.8 million state general fund and \$83.2 million federal financial participation) in ongoing new funding in order to ensure that all departments across the State are receiving equitable amounts.

DCSS executive staff are aware of our counties' concerns. Despite a significant effort to restructure how federal and state funds flow to county child support departments, no changes have been made. A more equitable distribution of funding to all counties is the optimal, most reasonable solution to this inequitable funding issue. However, failing a change to the allocation methodology, an increase in funding is required. The need to adequately fund all 14 county departments is critical to the long-term welfare of the children and families we serve. Furthermore, the State's investment in the child support program more than makes up for the general fund contribution. The State's average return on investment for every dollar spent funding child support staff and operations returns \$2.51. In some counties, the return is as much \$4.70 for every \$1 of investment.

We firmly believe that if the State makes this investment in our County Child Support Departments, there will be economic and social benefits for the State that outweigh the immediate General Fund impact. The funding request could result in the addition of more than 1,000 caseworkers over the next

three to four years, which has the potential to bring in nearly \$500,000,000 in additional collections. The result will be increased family self-sufficiency, better outcomes for children and an infusion of money into local economies. While we are certainly cognizant of Governor Brown's fiscal discipline and concern about declining – or at least decelerating – revenues, we are prepared to justify and defend the State's investment in our departments and the children and families we serve.

We look forward to working with you to resolve this glaring inequity of resources between various counties to ensure that the 2018-2019 Budget includes fiscal and policy solutions that will benefit those of us working hard every day to ensure that families have the resources they need to provide for their children.

Respectfully submitted,

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Robert V. Elliott

Chair, San Joaquin County



Kari Gilbert

Department of Child Support Services, Fresno County

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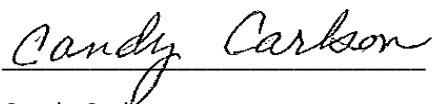
John K. Viegas

Chairman, Glenn County Board of Supervisors

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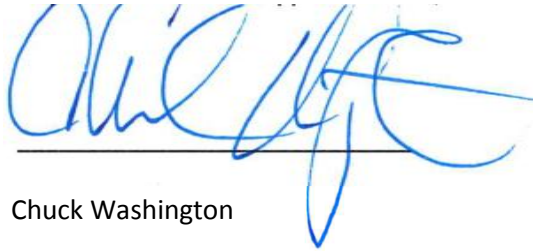
Mike Maggard

Kern County Chairperson



Candy Carlson

Tehama County Chairperson



Chuck Washington

Riverside County Chairperson

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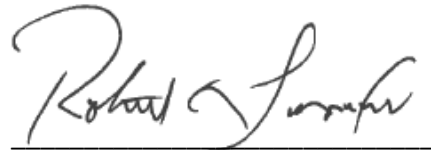
Jim DeMartini

Stanislaus County Chairperson

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Jerry O'Banion

Chairman, Merced County



Robert A. Lovingood

Chairman, San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors

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Susan Peters

Chair, Sacramento County Board of Supervisors

**Signature blocks for remaining counties TBD**

CC: Michael Wilkening, Interim Director, California Department of Child Support Services  
Mark Beckley, Chief Deputy Director, California Department of Child Support Services  
Senator Holly Mitchell, Chair, Senate Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review  
Senator Phil Ting, Assembly Committee on Budget  
Legislative Delegations for the Counties of Fresno, Glenn, Kern, Kings, Los Angeles, Merced,  
Riverside, Sacramento, San Bernardino, San Joaquin, Stanislaus and Tehama

Leticia Perez, President, California State Association of Counties  
Boards of Supervisors, Counties of Fresno, Glenn, Kern, Kings, Los Angeles, Madera, Merced,  
Riverside, Sacramento, San Bernardino, San Joaquin, Stanislaus and Tehama  
Diane Cummins, Department of Finance